

# State Water Resources Control Board

## Division of Clean Water Programs

2014 T Street • Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 227-4319

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 944212 • Sacramento, California • 94244-2120

FAX (916) 227-4349



Winston H. Hickox

Secretaryfor

Environmental

Protection

Gray Davis

Governor

TO: UST Program Managers  
LOP Program Managers

FROM: Allan Patton, Manager  
Underground Storage Tank Section  
DIVISION OF CLEAN WATER PROGRAMS

DATE: AUG 20 1999

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON USING USEPA METHOD 826013 FOR DETECTION OF METHYL TERT-BUTYL ETHER (MTBE)

As discussed in our August 22, 1996 memorandum, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory research on analytical methods for detecting MTBE has shown, in general, that methods in which gas chromatography (GC) is followed by mass spectrometry (MS) yield fewer false positive results than do methods which use GC only.

The USEPA methods contained in the latest edition of *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods* (Commonly known as SW- 846) now include Method 826013, which is a GC-MS method which reliably detects ethers such as MTBE. **Given the increased availability and reduced costs for performing this method, we recommend its use for** MTBE analysis of soil and water samples.

Attached is a copy of the 826013 method for reference from SW-846. Please note that the entire document can be Downloaded from the following USEPA website:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/test/sw846.htm>

Printed copies are also available for sale from the US Government Printing Office (202-522303) and the National Technical Information Service (800-553-6847).

If you have questions or comments please contact Kiln Ward of my staff (916-227-4319)

Attachment

cc: Anne Happel- LLNL